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and is so trifling that it can only be considered as accidental. In either case, nearly four-fifths of all the deaths were occasioned by diseases, which, however, proved fatal chiefly from the debility of childhood or advanced age. It may be assumed that the uncertain cases were, generally, from chronic complaints; because it is in those instances in which no medical man is called in that it most frequently remains doubtful which particular disease was the actual cause of death. However, the number of deaths from internal chronic complaints, and the uncertain cases, taken together, averaged per 100,000 deaths:—

According to the mean of fifteen years	.	.	.	.	46,554
During the year 1838	.	.	.	.	48,018
Difference	.	.	.	.	<u>1,464</u>

The amount of mortality from internal inflammatory diseases was, out of 100,000,—

According to the average of fifteen years	.	.	.	23,283
During the year 1838	.	.	.	22,308
Difference	.	.	.	<u>975</u>

The number of rapidly fatal cases was—

According to the average of fifteen years	.	.	7,272
During the year 1838	.	.	7,112
Difference	.	.	<u>160</u>

In the case of external diseases the numbers were—

According to the fifteen years' average	.	.	2,025
According to the calculation for 1838	.	.	1,786
Difference	.	.	<u>239</u>

From this it appears that the internal chronic diseases were certainly more fatal in 1838 than they were upon the average of fifteen years; the difference, however, amounts to only about 4 per cent., and is effectually compensated by the diminished rate of mortality in the other forms of disease. The majority of the internal chronic complaints commonly arise from excess, either of exertion or of indulgence; both will probably become more common as the state of society advances; as on the one hand there will be a greater stimulus to mental and bodily exertion, and on the other, the means of indulgence will be multiplied and rendered more easy of attainment. Whether the increased fatality of chronic diseases be really a consequence of a state of things otherwise so desirable, or of physical influences only, particularly the weather, it may be difficult to determine. At all events, nothing but the observations of many years will enable us to decide this point.

*Report of an Inquiry into the Condition of the Working Classes of the City of Bristol.* By C. BOWLES FRIPP, Esq.

[Read before the Statistical Section of the British Association, 29th August, 1839.]

At the meeting of the Association in Liverpool in 1837 I had the honour to submit to the Statistical Section the abstract of an inquiry into the condition of 275 families of the working classes of the city of Bristol.

The results of a similar inquiry on a more extended scale into the state of the working classes of some towns of Lancashire were at the same time communicated to the section by some members of the Statistical Society of Manchester ; and, as it seemed very desirable to carry on the investigation which had been commenced in Bristol, as well as in other places, a grant was made by the council of the Association for the furtherance of these inquiries, on the express condition that the numerical results alone were to be communicated to this section. By means of this grant, and aided by some private contributions, the inquiry into the condition of the working classes of Bristol has been since carried on, and I have now the pleasure to lay before the Section a complete analysis of its results. The investigation was made personally by the agent of the Bristol Statistical Society, and in the mode which was formerly detailed to this Section. The time occupied in the inquiry, and in abstracting the facts collected, has been upwards of eighteen months, and the expense about 110*l.* It may give the section a better idea of the labour involved in the collection and arrangement of such a mass of details, when I state that the transcript of the agent's original memoranda occupies no less than 675 large folio pages, and what I may call the *Primary Abstract* is contained in 20 additional pages of a still larger size. A further condensation was required to effect a parochial classification of the results ; and the *General Abstract* of the whole, which exhibits the social condition of nearly 6,000 families, comprising upwards of 20,000 persons, is what I have now to present to the Section.

The schedule of queries employed was that adopted by the Central Society of Education in their inquiry into the state of the poorer classes in Marylebone, with slight modifications and additions. A comparison of the results obtained by different inquiries of this kind may thus be readily made, which is a point of great importance.

In regard to the subject-matter of the inquiry, it is not requisite to offer any comment, as it sufficiently explains itself : but it may be proper to make one or two remarks on the rules observed by the agent in classifying the information on particular points. For instance, in determining the number of *families*, there seemed to be no other principle to follow than to include under this head every individual having to procure his or her own livelihood, and being singly responsible for the rent of the apartment (or part of the apartment) occupied. This circumstance explains the apparently low number of "persons per family," and the high proportion which the families "not having children" bear to those "with children," viz. as 10 to 18.

In a few cases the agent has found a wife or a husband deserted, and, as no account can be taken of the party absconded, the remaining parent has been classed with the widowers or widows. The return of "married persons" includes, therefore, an equal number of each sex.

With respect to the airy or confined state of the apartments, the agent has been left to form his own opinion ; the point being one in a great degree relative to the habits of the inspector, and as to which no precise rule could be laid down. There is no reason to think that he has at all over-estimated the number of the families occupying confined and ill-ventilated apartments. The same remarks will apply to the return

of the families having sufficient or inadequate accommodation in cupboards and shelves.

In stating the number of families in possession of books, it has been thought best to include under this head all who had any tracts or mere portions of volumes, which not unfrequently occurs.

No test could be generally applied by the agent to ascertain the ability of the parents or children to *read* or *write*, and the fact therefore has been taken on their own testimony only. There can be no doubt that the degree in which these elements of instruction are possessed is far inferior to what might be inferred from the mere numbers stated in this return. As to the *ages* of the children, which have also been entered according to the statement of the parents, allowance must be made for some slight inaccuracies. It is probable, however, that these do not materially affect the result, as they have a tendency to balance each other. When a definite age is given, children who had not quite attained it, or who were a little beyond it, would by most parents be assigned to the specific year to which they were nearest.

The return of children attending *school* includes many who only receive Sunday instruction; but the precise number has not been ascertained.

The inquiry relative to the *small-pox* was not included in the schedule until several parishes had been gone through, and applies, therefore, only to 6,362 children out of the total number of 10,856. There can be no doubt, however, that the results presented are nearly the same as would have been afforded by a still wider examination.

In distinguishing the *religious profession* of the heads of families, the agent could only take their own statements on the subject. A large proportion of those returned as members of the Established Church must be considered as belonging to it, only because they have not attached themselves to any other religious body.

#### *General Abstract.*

The number of houses examined was 3,028; they contained 5,981 families, or, on an average, 1.97 families to each house. The number of persons of which these consisted was 20,717, which gives an average of 6.84 to each house, and 3.46 to each family.

The number of heads of families, with or without children, was—

	Per Centage Proportion.
Men married . . . . .	84.6
single or widowers . . . . .	15.4
	<u>4,583</u>
Women married . . . . .	73.5
single or widows . . . . .	26.5
	<u>5,278</u>
Total married . . . . .	79.7
single or widowed . . . . .	20.3
	<u>9,861</u>

The number of children was—

Boys . . . . .	49.4
Girls . . . . .	50.6
	<u>10,856</u>

The number belonging to each nation was—

	Per Centage Proportion.
English . . . . .	5,220      87·3
Irish . . . . .	501      8·4
Welsh . . . . .	170      2·8
Scotch . . . . .	15      0·2
Foreigners . . . . .	27      0·5
Not ascertained . . . . .	48      0·8
	<u>5,981</u> <u>100</u>
Families having children . . . . .	3,846*      64·3
not having children . . . . .	2,135      35·7
	<u>5,981</u> <u>100</u>
Families consisting of single persons.	1,163      19·4
two , ,	1,298      21·7
three , ,	990      16·6
four , ,	792      13·2
five , ,	691      11·6
six , ,	470      7·8
seven , ,	269      4·5
eight, or more	308      5·2
	<u>5,981</u> <u>100</u>
Families occupying part of a room . . .	556      9·3
, , one room only . . .	2,244      37·5
, , two rooms . . .	1,439      24·1
, , three or more rooms	1,742      29·1
	<u>5,981</u> <u>100</u>
Families occupying airy apartments . . .	3,569      59·6
, , apartments close and confined . . .	2,412      40·4
	<u>5,981</u> <u>100</u>
Families having sufficient cupboards or shelves . . . . .	3,688      61·7
Families having some, but deficient of cupboards or shelves . . . . .	1,421      23·7
Families without any . . . . .	872      14·6
	<u>5,981</u> <u>100</u>
Houses with drains or sewers . . . .	2,398      79·2
, , without drains, or stopped .	630      20·8
	<u>3,028</u> <u>100</u>
Houses with privies . . . . .	2,451      80·9
, , without privies, or very bad .	577      19·1
	<u>3,028</u> <u>100</u>
Houses with a good supply of water . . .	1,724      56·9
, , without, or very bad or deficient	1,304      43·1
	<u>3,028</u> <u>100</u>
Families having religious books (bible or prayer-book, or both) . . . . .	3,430      57·4
Families having other books or tracts, or parts of some . . . . .	947      15·8
	<u>4,377</u> <u>73·2</u>
Families not having any books or tracts (including 2 not ascertained)	1,604      26·8
	<u>5,981</u> <u>100</u>
Families having prints of some kind on the walls . . . . .	3,030      50·7
Families not having any (including 13 not ascertained) . . . . .	2,951      49·3
	<u>5,981</u> <u>100</u>

\* As the number of married families was only 3,880, a considerable number of the single and widowed heads of families must have children.—ED.

	Per Centage Proportion.
Families, clean and respectable . . .	3,610 60·4
,, dirty and disreputable . . .	1,095 18·3
,, in considerable distress . . .	660 11·
,, condition not ascertained . . .	616 10·3
	<u>5,981</u> <u>100</u>
Heads of families depositors in savings' banks, or members of benefit societies or trade clubs . . . .	940 15·7
Heads of families not depositors or members . . . . .	4,973 83·1
Heads of families not ascertained . . .	68 1·2
	<u>5,981</u> <u>100</u>
Heads of families who can read or write (more or less) . . . . .	5,122 51·9
Heads of families who can only read . . .	2,523 25·6
Total who can read . . . . .	7,645 77·5
Unable to read or write (including 12 not ascertained) . . .	2,216 22·5
	<u>9,861</u> <u>100</u>
Males who, according to their own statements, can use carpenters' tools so as to mend their own furniture . . .	2,703 59·
Males who cannot use tools . . . .	1,880 41·
	<u>4,583</u> <u>100</u>
Women who can sew, wash, and knit . . .	297 5·6
,, who can sew and wash . . .	4,859 92·1
,, who cannot sew or wash . . .	122 2·3
	<u>5,278</u> <u>100</u>

*Rents, &c.*

Families renting house or apartments from owners . . . . .	3,298	55·1
Families renting house or apartments from tenants . . . . .	2,666	44·6
Families occupying their own houses . . .	13	0·3
,, apartments free . . .	4	
	<u>5,981</u>	<u>100</u>

	£. s. d.
Average rent paid by 1,799 families for 1 room unfurnished	0 1 3½ per week.
,, 943 ,,, 2 rooms ,,,	0 1 11½
,, 790 ,,, 3 ,,,	0 2 5½
,, 632 ,,, 1 room furnished .	0 2 0½
,, 10 ,,, 2 rooms ,,,	0 2 10½
,, 1,156 ,,, houses under 20 <i>l.</i> .	9 9 8 per annum.
,, 59 ,,, 20 <i>l.</i> and above	
,, 4 ,,, free.	
,, 588 ,,, not ascertained.	
	<u>5,981</u>

	Per annum. £. s. d.
Of the houses the lowest rent was . . . . .	3 0 0
,, the average rent of 47 not exceeding 5 <i>l.</i> was . . . . .	4 10 9
,, ,,, 561 above 5 <i>l.</i> and under 10 <i>l.</i> . . . . .	7 17 11
	<u>1,215</u>
,, ,,, 608 below 10 <i>l.</i> averaging . . . . .	7 12 9
,, ,,, 548 of 10 <i>l.</i> and below 20 <i>l.</i> averaging . . . . .	12 5 3
,, ,,, 59 20 <i>l.</i> and upwards.	

Children, &c.	Boys.	Girls.	Per Centage Proportion.
Of the age of 1 year and under . . . . .	398	443	
,, 2 years . . . . .	411	457	
,, 3 years . . . . .	339	366	
,, 4 years . . . . .	333	338	
,, 5 years . . . . .	304	313	
,, 6 years . . . . .	247	265	
,, 7 years . . . . .	338	276	
,, 8 years . . . . .	237	279	
,, 9 years . . . . .	274	279	
,, 10 years . . . . .	276	264	
,, 11 years . . . . .	206	218	
,, 12 years . . . . .	278	258	
,, 13 years . . . . .	209	210	
,, 14 years . . . . .	294	233	
,, above 14 years . . . . .	1,219	1,294	
	<u>5,363</u>	<u>5,493</u>	= 10,856
Of whom are healthy . . . . .	10,085		92·9
,, unhealthy . . . . .	771		7·1
	<u>10,856</u>		100
Children above 7 years old sleeping in same room with parents, or both sexes in same room. . . . .		4,752	
Children brought up to trade or useful occupation . . . . .	2,687		
Children not so brought up (above 14 years old) . . . . .	731		3,413
Girls who can sew and wash . . . . .	1,702		31·0
,, sew only . . . . .	1,350		24·5
,, cannot sew, wash, or knit (old enough) . . . . .	74		1·4
Girls too young, or not accounted for . . . . .	2,367		43·1
	<u>5,493</u>		100
Children at school not above 3 years of age . . . . .	120		1·1
Children from 3 to 14 years old . . . . .	3,394		31·3
,, above 14 years old . . . . .	222		2·1
	<u>3,736</u>		
Children not at school, not above 3 years of age . . . . .	2,294		21·1
Children from 3 to 14 years old . . . . .	2,535		23·3
,, above 14 years old . . . . .	2,291		21·1
	<u>7,120</u>		10,856 — 100
Children stated by their parents to be able to read and write. . . . .	2,010		18·5
Children able to read only . . . . .	3,934		36·2
	<u>5,944</u>		
Children unable to read or write under 7 years of age . . . . .	3,603		33·2
,, above . . . . .	1,309		12·1
	<u>4,912</u>		10,856 — 100
Children able to repeat the Lord's Prayer . . . . .	6,504		59·6
Children not able, or too young . . . . .	4,352		40·4
	<u>10,856</u>		100

## Payments by scholars :

		Per Centage Proportion.
Gratis (chiefly Sunday scholars)	.	1,425 38·1
At $\frac{1}{2}d.$ per week	.	6 0·2
1d.	,	715 19·1
$1\frac{1}{2}d.$	,	181 4·8
2d.	,	650 17·4
		<hr/> 1,552
3d.	,	397
4d.	,	165
5d.	,	3
6d.	,	85
7d.	,	14
8d.	,	36
9d. to 1s.	,	27 19·5
		<hr/> 727
Paid for by friends	.	11 0·3
Not ascertained	.	21 0·6
Total	.	3,736 — 100

*Religious Profession of Heads of Families.*

Church of England	.	4,547	76·
Roman Catholic	.	489	8·2
Methodists	.	223	3·7
Other Dissenters	.	589	9·8
Jews	.	5	0·1
Without any profession	.	81	1·4
Not ascertained	.	47	0·8
		<hr/> 5,981	<hr/> 100

*Bodily Complaints.*

Cripples	.	18	13·9
Spinal deformities and accidents	.	24	18·6
Paralytic, fits, Vitus's dance, &c.	.	48	37·3
Dumb	.	6	4·6
Blind	.	12	9·3
Idiots and insane	.	21	16·3
		<hr/> 129	<hr/> 100

*Small Pox.*

Natural Pox	.	1,632	25·6
Vaccinated	.	3,535	55·6
Inoculated	.	93	1·5
Neither	.	1,102	17·3
		<hr/> 6,362	<hr/> 100
Caught small-pox after vaccination	.	17	0·48 or 1 in 208.

*Occupations of Heads of Families.*

Occupations.	No.	Occupations.	No.
Labourers	1453	Laundresses	104
Shoemakers	476	Mariners and bargemen	99
Shoebinders	44	Butchers	78
Carpenters, cabinet-makers, sawyers, and lathers	277	Shopkeepers (general)	60
Charwomen	272	Braziers, brass-founders, and bright-smiths	55
Paupers	233	Pipe-makers	55
Tailors	161	Glass-blowers and cutters	53
Painters, glaziers, tilers, &c.	157	Bakers	52
Masons and stone-cutters	135	Hostlers, grooms, and horse-keepers	51
Hawkers (general)	128	Curriers	48
Sempstresses and dressmakers	125	Brush, clog, and patten-makers	47
Smiths and farriers	115		

	Occupations.	No.	Occupations.	No.
Engineers	• • • • •	44	Pensioners	• • • •
Coopers	• • • • •	38	Toy-makers and turners	• • •
Servants out of place	• • • •	35	Brick and tile-makers	• • •
Hawkers of fruit	• • • •	34	Greengrocers	• • •
Comb-makers	• • • •	32	Soapboilers	• • •
Maltsters and brewers	• • • •	32	Pig and cattle-drivers	• • •
Brothel-keepers and prostitutes	• • • •	32	Cab-drivers	• • •
Basket-makers	• • • •	30	Confectioners	• • •
Hatters	• • • •	30	Lodging-house keepers	• • •
Travellers	• • • •	30	Midwives and nurses	• • •
Weavers	• • • •	29	Trunk and box-makers	• • •
Gardeners	• • • •	28	Hairdressers	• • •
Schoolmasters	• • • •	28	Clock-makers	• • •
Spinners of flax and twine	• • • •	27	Match-makers	• • •
Provision-sellers	• • • •	26	Mechanics	• • •
Plumbers and block-makers	• •	25	Shipwrights and carpenters	• •
Rope and sacking-makers	• • •	25	Tobacconists	• • •
Wheel and millwrights	• • •	25	Harness and saddle-makers	• • •
Basket-women	• • • •	24	Tin-plate workers	• • •
Milkmen	• • • •	23	Other occupations giving employ-	
Police	• • • •	23	ment to less than 10 persons each	207
Chair-makers	• • • •	22	No calling, incapable of work	• • 176
Dealers in coal	• • • •	22		
Ironfounders and ironmongers	• • • •	22		
Coachmakers	• • • •	21	Total	• • • • 5681

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*Report on the State of Education among the Working Classes in the Parish of West Bromwich.*

IN the year 1837 two gentlemen residing near West Bromwich determined to institute a statistical inquiry into the state of education among the labouring classes in that parish, and for that purpose employed two agents to visit every family of that class. These persons noted the following particulars relating to each family, in a form with which they were provided, and were thus occupied for the space of several weeks.

West Bromwich is in the county of Stafford, about seven miles from Birmingham, with which town it is intimately connected. The number of families of the working class residing in the parish, with children under their roof, was 2193. About 550 other families were visited, but when it was found that they had no children living with them no further questions were asked. In some of these instances the children had left their parents for employment or other objects, and in others the parties consisted of young couples who had no children. No family belonging to the working class is known to have been passed over. The following abstract of the trades and occupations followed by the heads of the families will afford an exact notion of the character of the population. In a small number of cases the trade could not be exactly defined, and in some the father was dead:—